



Benefits to Dual-Language Learning

Students' Brains Benefit from Dual-Language Programs

Many teachers in dual-language programs who have previously taught only English language learners in schools that concentrated only on English see a difference in how students' brains work in dual-language programs. The students regularly shift back and forth between the two languages, which makes their brains transfer information in new ways. Some schools have seen significant increases in testing scores regardless of the language of the test.

The Growing Need for a Global Education

Dual-language programs are very contemporary strategy that give a definite competitive edge. Students learn that every language is important in global interconnectedness. They learn about different cultures, which helps children to develop an inclusive worldview from a very early age, which is increasingly important in today's world. Many working environments are now not only multi-cultural, but also multi-national, with teams often spanning multiple continents.

Dual-Language Programs Are Similar to Gifted and Talented Programs

The engagement level of dual-language programs is quite high because students must multitask in order to learn material in both languages. This is similar to the approach schools use to engage gifted and talented students. The more mental stimulation a lesson offers, the more engaged the students will be.

Teaching in a dual-language program also helps students compare the languages linguistically, which can help with grammar, spelling, and syntax.

Benefits of a Dual-Language Immersion Program

There are many advantages to having your child learn a second language at an early age.

- Research shows that the best time for a child to learn a second language is from birth to 12 years old, while a child's brain is still developing language skills.
- Children who learn a second or even third language are academically prepared with the 21st-century skill set to compete and succeed in a global marketplace.
- Children who learn more than one language have a better capacity to learn new concepts quickly and can easily grasp new ideas in subjects such as math and science.
- There are many long-term advantages for a child to learn a second language, including performing better than monolingual students on tasks that involve divergent thinking, pattern recognition, and problem-solving.
- According to the Center for Early Care and Education Research - Dual Language Learners, bilingual children tend to be able to focus better and regulate their behavior, making them less likely to act out and prone to adjusting well in groups of their peers.
- When learning a second language, children will also learn about the history and culture of the countries of the spoken language; and therefore, will be able to connect culturally with others.

There are many benefits of language learning. Students learning a dual language are statistically proven to have higher test scores, stronger literacy skills, enhanced cognitive abilities, and graduate an average of two or three years ahead of their peers. They have also shown to perform better academically in college, earn higher salaries in their professions, and develop superior attention and memory. Learning a second language unquestioningly sets one apart in today's ever-competitive world.

Sources:

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